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NOTES

THE spring meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club is held at Ann Arbor, March 27 and 28. In connection with the meeting there will be a half-day conference of Michigan teachers of Greek and Latin.

D. C. HEATH & CO., have in press for immediate issue in "Heath's Modern Language Series," Augier's *Le Gendre de M. Poirier*, edited, with introduction and notes, by Professor B. W. Wells of the University of the South.

THE March number of *Harper's Magazine* opens with a new installment of Casper W. Whitney's "On Snow-shoes to the Barren Grounds," the most striking and novel narrative of travel given to American readers in recent years.

THE Illinois Society for Child-study will hold its next annual child-study congress at the Chicago and Cook County Normal School, Englewood, Chicago, May 14, 15 and 16. This society is the most successful and useful organization for its purpose in the country, and its meetings are events of national interest.

THE *School Journal* of New York makes a new move that will commend itself to the educators of the United States in publishing two illustrated magazine numbers a month, from 36 to 44 pages each. The first number of the month is devoted to the interests of school boards¹ and superintendents. The third week is to be a "Method" number. The *Journal* was established in 1870.

TEACHERS frequently want books, but do not know exactly how to get them. They want to be sure, too, to get the latest and best editions. As an accommodation to its constituency THE SCHOOL REVIEW has arranged to supply them at publishers' advertised prices, postage free, with any educational books on the market. Inquiries about books addressed to the editor will be promptly and gladly answered.

WE are in receipt of the constitution and by-laws of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Southern States. The birth of this association is a good omen for educational progress. It was needed to do the work in the South that has been so splendidly performed by the older associations in the eastern and middle states for their respective territories. From this organization will date, it is not too much to hope, great advances, a new era even, in higher education in the South.

GINN & Co. publish in March : *Quintus Curtius*, selections, edited with notes and a vocabulary, by Willard Humphreys, Instructor in Latin in the College of New Jersey (Princeton) ; *Macaulay's Essay on Milton*, edited, with an introduction and notes, by Herbert Augustine Smith, Instructor in English in Yale College, and *Selections from Epictetus*, Long's translation, edited by Edwin Ginn.

THE first annual meeting of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools will be held at the University of Chicago, April 3 and 4, 1896. There will be three sessions :—at 2 : 30 P. M., April 3 ; and at 10 : 00 A. M. and 2 : 30 P. M., April 4. The main topics for discussion will be as follows : 1. College requirements in History. 2. What constitutes a College and what a Secondary School? 3. Methods of admission to College, with papers on four representative systems. A full report of the meeting will be printed in the May SCHOOL REVIEW.

OUR readers are invited to correspond freely with the editor. The more we can make the SCHOOL REVIEW a coöperative institution the more service will the magazine be able to render. Suggestions and requests for articles on special subjects are always welcome. Requests for information on any point connected with the work of high schools and academies will be answered gladly. The editor does not know about everything, fortunately, but he frequently does know some one else who does know, so the question can be answered. The aim of the magazine is the largest service. We want our readers to make us as useful as possible.

THE Report of the Massachusetts Board of Education for the year 1893-4 is one of unusual interest to secondary teachers. It announces that four new normal schools have been established by the state of Massachusetts, making the whole number of such schools ten, and that "candidates for admission are now required to be graduates of high schools approved by the board, or to have received an equivalent education." This regulation cannot fail to increase the attendance and also the efficiency of the small high schools of the state. As it is, 94.7 per cent. of the population of the state live in towns supporting high schools. About 2 per cent. more are within easy reach of good high schools, and for the remaining 3 per cent. an act of the legislature provides that towns that do not maintain a high school must pay the tuition of such young people residing therein as may wish to attend high schools in other towns. There were in the year 1894, 255 high schools in the state. The number of towns required by law to keep such schools is 164. The number that did actually keep them is 234. Of the high schools in the state, 146 maintain college preparatory courses. The secretary of the board, Mr. Frank A. Hill, believes that it would aid the small high schools if other colleges would follow Harvard, Williams, and Tufts, in abandoning their

insistence upon Greek as a prerequisite to the degree of A.B. Such an arrangement would enable struggling high schools to do away with their expensive Greek courses and to tone up the teaching in the hitherto non-preparatory courses. It would help to break down the demarkation between popular and college preparatory courses in the high schools. The Secretary tells us that in Massachusetts 25 to 30 per cent. of the school population enters the high school and in many of the old and typical New England communities this percentage rises even as high as 50. He sees a great development for the Massachusetts high schools for the future, when the adjustment between them and the higher institutions of learning shall have become more perfect. An Educational Museum has been established with the State Educational Exhibit at the Columbian Exhibition as a nucleus. Mr. A. W. Edson, secretary of the Board of Education, gives some interesting statistics as to the extent to which so-called high school studies have been introduced into the grammar schools of his district. This district, comprising Worcester and Hampton counties, has eighty-two towns and cities. Algebra is taught in the grammar schools of nine of these places; Geometry in seven; Latin in six; Literature and Physical Geography in four; Physics and English History in three; German and General History in one each. In many towns Nature Study and Elementary Science are well taught in all grades. Agent J. W. McDonald, of the board, is making a special study of high schools. His complete report is not yet ready, but he contributes some very valuable facts and suggestions in this report. He finds that in 142 high schools in Massachusetts, out of a total of 619 teachers 347 are college graduates and 94 are normal school students, and that there is no doubt that the academic preparation of candidates for positions in high schools is much superior to what it was even ten or fifteen years ago. In an investigation of the number of pupils who leave the high school during the course, he finds that the series 18, 10, 7, 6, shows about the relative numbers in the class from year to year as it goes through the school. That is, about one-third of those who enter graduate; but comparatively few leave during the last two years. As to the smaller high schools, it seems to Mr. McDonald that they would accomplish more if they would aim to accomplish less,—that is, if they would cease to imitate larger and better-favored schools and recognize their own limitations and possibilities.

THE Department of Pedagogy of the University of Chicago has prepared a plan for a study of children's reading. The study is designed to show so far as possible what children are actually reading. It will show incidentally what proportion are not reading at all. Pains should be taken not to arouse the child's self-consciousness or suspicion in any way. The work should, if possible, be brought in as part of the regular class work in English. It furnishes a good subject for a short composition. Use whatever kind of paper is regu-

larly used in the school for composition work. It will hardly be profitable to try the plan with a grade lower than the third. The age and sex of the child are required for each paper. It will be better not to say anything to the pupils about this. As a rule they will put on the name anyhow. The teacher can in a few moments add age and sex in each case. The name will usually show the latter. Do not let the children know they are being studied. Do not tell them that thousands of other children are being asked the same questions. The work to be done is very simple. All the pupils are to write a composition in answer to the following questions:

1. What books have you read since school began last September?
2. Which one of these did you like best?
3. Why did you like that book?
4. What book have you ever read that you liked better?
5. What book have you ever read that you did not like?
6. Why did you not like it?
7. If you were given money to buy a book you have never read, what book would you buy?

The papers should not be corrected by the teachers, further than to add, where necessary, age and sex. The name is of no consequence, and it is not necessary to add it in cases where it has been omitted. The request is made that all papers be sent to Professor C. H. Thurber, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ills. The Department of Pedagogy wishes to compile the results. Teachers and other adults are requested to answer the questions as well as they can from memory, for some date in early life. Kindly forward reminiscences to the address given above. Copies of this syllabus can be obtained gratis by addressing Professor C. H. Thurber, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

CURRENT EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE

REVIVAL OF THE OLYMPIAN GAMES. *North American Review*, March 1896.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS AS A UNIVERSITY MOVEMENT. By HELEN CAMPBELL, *Review of Reviews*, March 1896.

THE YOUNG DRAUGHTSMAN. By JAMES SULLY. *Popular Science Monthly*, February 1896.

A discussion of the drawings of young children,

THE BEST THING COLLEGE DOES FOR A MAN. By CHARLES F. THWING, *Forum*, March 1896.

WHATEVER may be in store for the American college as the predecessor of the American university, it can never cease to be an agency for the training of a man in the great business of living. It enriches his life; it deepens and